

DECISION RECORD AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for
Learn To Return Training Systems

I. Decision:

It is my decision to authorize a Special Recreation Permit (SRP), AA-084078, to Learn To Return Training Systems to conduct commercial outdoor education and survival training on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Special Recreation Management Area (CTSRMA) for a period of five years, subject to annual authorization. Mitigation measures identified for the Proposed Action in the environmental consequences section of the attached environmental assessment have been formulated into the stipulations. The standard stipulations for special recreation permits and the special stipulations for Campbell Tract are attached to the Decision Record and the authorizing permit.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The rationale for this decision is to support opportunities for environmental education and outdoor education survival training on Campbell Tract as described in Part II of the Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Campbell Tract (1988).

The lands described in the application are included in the Alaska Southcentral Planning Area Management Framework Plan (MFP), dated March 1980 and the 1988 Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Campbell Tract. The Proposed Action is in conformance with both plans.

This decision to allow issuance of the SRP does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

The decision will not significantly restrict subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of subsistence resources, alter the distribution of subsistence resources, or limit subsistence user access from currently existing conditions. No further analysis is necessary at this time.

V. Adverse Energy Impact Compliance:

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

VI. Monitoring:

Pre- and post season inspection of the training sites as well as random spot checks during field training exercises will be conducted by the Authorized Officer to insure compliance with the attached stipulations. An annual inspection and compliance report will be prepared after the spring clean-up and reviewed previous to the issuance of each subsequent annual Special Recreation Permit renewal request.

/s/ June A. Bailey, Acting
Anchorage Field Manager

02/18/03
Date

2 Attachments:

Stipulations (4 pp)

Environmental Assessment (AK-040-03-EA-004) (9 pp)

Standard Special Recreation Permit Stipulations

1. The permittee shall comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, postings, or written requirements applicable to the area or operations covered by the Special Recreation Permit (SRP). The permittee shall ensure that all persons operating under the authorization have obtained all required Federal, State, and local licenses or registrations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all clients, customers, participants, or spectators under the permittee's supervision.
2. A SRP authorizes special uses of the public lands and related waters and, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including modification of amount of use. The authorized officer may suspend or terminate a SRP if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, the environment, or because of noncompliance with permit stipulations. Actions by the BLM to suspend or terminate a SRP are appealable.
3. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of Federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. The permit privileges are not to be considered property on which the permittee shall be entitled to earn or receive any return, income, price, or compensation. The use of a permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
4. Unless expressly stated, the SRP does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of the Federal land by other users. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the area for any purpose.
5. The permittee may not assign, contract, or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, contracting of equipment and services may be approved by the authorizing officer in advance, if necessary to supplement a permittee's operations. If equipment or services are contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.
6. All advertising and representation made to the public and the authorized officer must be accurate. Although the addresses and telephone numbers of the BLM may be included in advertising materials, official agency symbols may not be used. The permittee shall not use advertising that attempts to portray or represent the activities as being conducted by the BLM. The permittee may not portray or represent the permit as a special Federal user's tax. The permittee must furnish the Authorized Officer with any current brochure and price list if requested by the Authorized Officer.

7. The permittee must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., trail and route conditions, land slides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling limbs or trees, submerged objects, hazardous wildlife, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.
8. In the event of default on any mortgage or other indebtedness, such as bankruptcy, creditors shall not succeed to the operating rights or privileges of the permittee's SRP.
9. The permittee cannot, unless specifically authorized, erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on public lands. Upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to pre-existing conditions.
10. The Authorized Officer, or other duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or permittee's operator, employee, or agent for up to three years after expiration of the permit.
11. The permittee must submit a Post Use Report to the Authorized Officer for every year the permit is in effect. If the post use report is not received by the established deadline, the permit will be suspended and/or fines assessed.
12. The permittee shall notify the Authorized Officer of any accident which occurs while involved in activities authorized by this permit which result in death, personal injury requiring hospitalization or emergency evacuation, or in property damage greater than \$2500. Reports should be submitted within 48 hours in the case of death or injury, or 10 days in accidents involving property damage.

Special Stipulations for Campbell Tract

1. All efforts will be made to inform the BLM Authorized Officer of planned training sessions utilizing Campbell Tract immediately upon booking, with a one month, or more, notification being most desirable. Each training session group representative will send a written notice to the Authorized Officer at least two weeks before an actual training session in order to coordinate any conflicting events on the Campbell Tract. The notice should include event date(s) and time, event description, number of participants, and any special needs or pertinent information. The permittee will check in with the Authorized Officer at the CCSC before proceeding to the actual training site on the day of each session.
2. Access to the CT will be made through the CCSC road gate and parking is approved in the CCSC visitor parking lot. The CCSC road gate must be secured immediately upon entry and exit from the CT and vehicles unassociated with the training session will not be allowed access. For safety and site security all un-scheduled after-hours or weekend access to the CT must be pre-approved through the BLM Authorized Officer.
3. If motor vehicle access on the CT is necessary to bring in or remove equipment, the Authorized Officer must be contacted in advance to coordinate an official escort on established roadways only.
4. All trails and access roads will remain unobstructed. Instructors and students will yield to other recreational users when crossing trails. Use of the airstrip and core administrative areas is prohibited.
5. Instructors must possess a copy of the SRP and the attached stipulations while on the CT.
6. A mandatory review of these permit stipulations, Leave No Trace principles, and pertinent safety information must be presented to all participants upon entering the CT. This briefing will also discuss the prohibition on disturbing or destroying cultural resources, and bear and moose safety procedures. BLM staff may be available to assist with this requirement.
7. Camping is permitted only in the designated location agreed upon by the group representative and the Authorized Officer.
8. Each group must use Leave No Trace camping techniques by removing all evidence of fire pans, temporary survival shelters and human waste upon completion of each class session. One demonstration survival shelter may be maintained on the site between sessions to be removed at spring annual clean-up. Poles for construction of temporary

shelters may be discreetly stockpiled at the campsite for use in subsequent sessions in multiple years.

9. Cutting of live or standing vegetation is prohibited. Each group is required to bring all live vegetation needed to complete the shelters i.e., boughs, etc. The imported vegetation must be material native to the area, may not contain viable seed structures, may be discretely stored on the site between sessions, and must be removed by the spring cleanup.
10. Students are allowed one small training fire each per session constructed of small down and dead wood materials collected on the site. Each practice fire must be constructed in a fire pan and all evidence removed from the site upon completion of each training session. One group campfire, no larger than six square feet, is allowed per training session. This fire must be confined to an established fireproof pad and all evidence removed during the spring cleanup. Wood for this group fire must be native to the area, not serve as a seed source, and imported from off the CT.
11. Flares, incendiary devices, and fires will not be permitted under any circumstances during periods of an official municipal fire ban. Flare and fire use during non-ban periods must be approved by the Authorized Officer in advance of each training session. The Authorized Officer must be contacted the week of the session for this fire and flare approval. A non-airstrip site for flare use will be designated for training purposes. Expended and unexpended flare materials must be removed from the training site after each session.
12. The permittee will perform a spring clean-up of both training sites by June 1 annually to remove all litter, human waste, expended natural materials, and lost items.